

Summary of the CJC-DPBHS Response to the Lewes Case

On December 16th 2009, in Lewes, Delaware state police arrested Dr. Earl B. Bradley after a 2-year-old complained to her parents that the doctor had hurt her and touched her genitals over the course of 2 physical exams. Seven days after the arrest, the Attorney General's Office reported that the accused doctor may have sexually victimized as many as 100 children (ages 3 months to 13 years of age) over the course of 11 years. The Lieutenant Governor asked our division to coordinate mental health support and treatment for families that were directly or indirectly affected by these alleged crimes. Thus, the state's Criminal Justice Council (CJC) released funds in February of 2010 to help underwrite the cost of coordination, services and training.

From February to August, 2010, DPBHS used the CJC funding in order to respond to victims of the accused.

First, DPBHS added a clinician to its crisis service in order to respond to acutely or moderately impacted families. This crisis worker and other members of the crisis service were trained to use elements of a 4-6 session brief intervention (i.e., the Child and Family Traumatic Stress Intervention) to respond to families that were upset to discover that their child was likely to be (or could have been) a victim of the accused. The crisis worker served 25 former clients of the accused (18 children and 7 parents).

Second, DPBHS worked with the La Esperanza community center in Georgetown to set up an outreach and support program for Mexican, Guatemalan, Puerto Rican and other Hispanic families that have children who were once patients of the accused. The center's social worker outreached to the Hispanic community, implemented in-office and in-home support services for parents, provided transportation and translation services, and triaged child PTSD cases with a bilingual therapist that DPBHS trained to provide trauma-specific treatment. The social worker ultimately served 13 parents whose children were former patients of the accused.

Third, DPBHS funneled some of the CJC funds to support 2 local mental agencies (Survivors of Abuse in Recovery and People's Place Inc.) that wanted to provide support groups for the parents and other adults that were directly or indirectly affected by the Lewes case. Thirty-nine adult victims participated in these support groups.

Fourth, DPBHS mounted multiple trainings for clinicians and other professionals that worked with affected families. Under the sponsorship of the CJC grant, Steve Berkowitz M.D. from the University of Pennsylvania trained 6 crisis therapists to use the Child and Family Traumatic Stress Intervention for acutely and moderately distressed families. On May 10, Martin Finkel M.D. from the CARES Institute at the University of Medicine and Dentistry at New Jersey spoke to 24 members of Sussex County's medical and mental health community about the critical importance of the clinical history when evaluating sexually abuse children. On April 16 and 19, Stephanie Traynor Ph.D. trained 3 bi-lingual therapists to use Culturally Modified TF-CBT with Hispanic children that were alleged to be victims of the accused. And from February to June, Delaware's own Beth Joselow LPCMH provided a 2-hour training on how to support parents of sexually abused children to 82 school counselors, school nurses and childcare staff in the affected region.

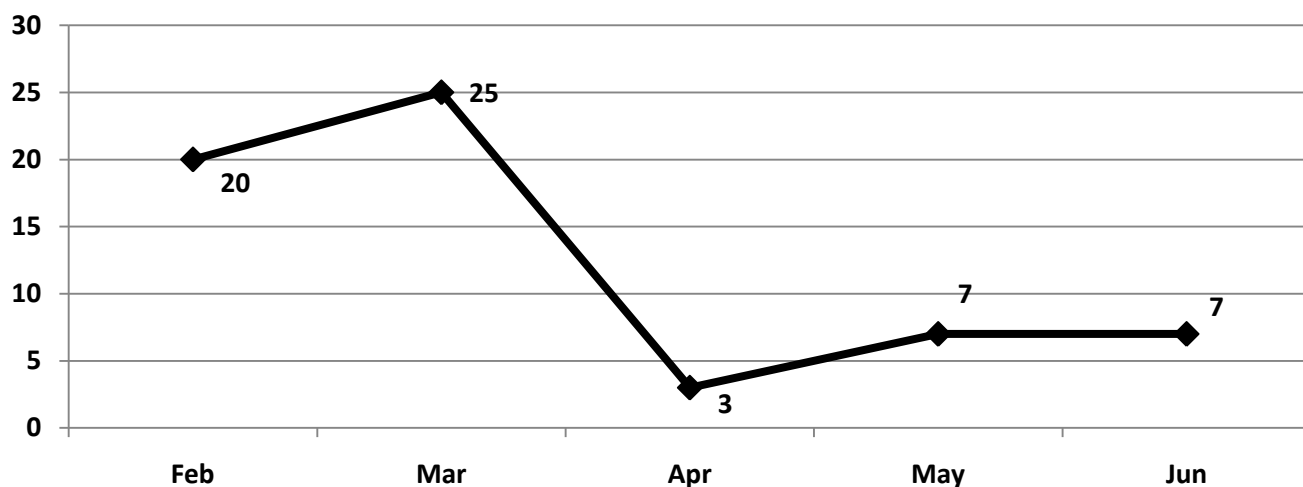
In its second quarterly reports to the CJC, DPBHS reported on the number of victims served (see Table 1) and professionals trained (see Table 2). Importantly, DPBHS explained that the number of new victims presenting to CJC-sponsored services had declined dramatically in March (see Figure 1). Thus, the CJC informed DPBHS's director on August 23, that it would de-obligate DPBHS's funding for further service and training. CJC ended funding for the added crisis worker as of 8-13-2010 (the date when that worker was hired as a permanent member of the crisis service staff). Second, the CJC has de-obligated its funding for the support groups and services to the Hispanic Community as of 6-30-2010 and continued those services under direct contracts with the participating agencies. Finally, the CJC has discontinued funding for all training services provided after Beth Joselow's last scheduled training on 8-17-2010.

For further information, please contact Chuck Webb at 302-633-2598.

Table 1 CJC-Sponsored Services for Lewes victims: February-June 2010

Program	Agency(ies)	Description	Victims
Crisis Response	Delaware Guidance Services	Brief therapy based on an evidence-based model (Child and Family Traumatic Stress Initiative or CFTSI) for acute and moderately distressed victims.	25
Response to Hispanic victims	La Esperanza	Support services (i.e., groups, translation, transportation) for parents of Hispanic victims based on Psychological First Aid	13
Adult Support Groups	SOAR and People's Place	Support groups for adult residents of Lewes, DE and relatives of former patients of the accused	24*
Total			62*

* 15 additional victims attended the support group at People's Place in January

Figure 1 New victims presenting to CJC-sponsored services: February - June 2010**Table 2 CJC-Sponsored Trainings for Lewes victims: February-June 2010**

Trainer	Institution	Description	Trainees
Steve Berkowitz PhD	University of Pennsylvania	Crisis response to families of former patients that are acutely or moderately distressed by the Lewes situation. Response based on CFTSI.	6
Stephanie Traynor PsyD	Supporting Kidds	Trauma-specific treatment for children from Hispanic populations.	3
Martin Finkel MD	CARES Institute	The critical role of taking a clinical history when evaluating sexually abused children	24
Beth Joselow LPCMH	The Tides Behavioral Health	Responding to and supporting the parents of sexually abused children	82
Total			115